

Price the star

**Wycombe W. 4,
Oxford Univ. 0**

WYCOMBE Wanderers made hard work of overcoming a spirited Oxford University XI at Loakes Park on Thursday night. They were held 0-0 in the first half but the pressure told in the end and the Blues eased in 4-0. The match was a personal triumph for Tony Price who scored once and had a hand in two of the other goals (writes Stuart Earp).

Price, in fact, looked the most enthusiastic player on the field with the possible exception of Alan Davies. This could have been because he was turning out against his own university colleagues. Tony is still at Oxford but I gather will not be playing in the Varsity match this year due to pressure of studies.

On this form Price looks ready for a place in the league team. He has lots of skill while his pace gives him the extra ability to take on and beat defenders.

But Price's performance was one of the few bright spots on Thursday as Wanderers rarely got into the stride. Perhaps they were experimenting with various moves but that is no excuse for the missed chances. From the moment Dylan Evans and Alan Phillips headed over and wide in the first few minutes, it was obvious the Blues were struggling in front of goal.

One thing's for sure, they certainly had enough set piece practice. They recorded a staggering 21 corners in the match — but failed to score from any of them!

Oxford centre forward Marsh Hall impressed in the first half but he had little service from midfield and fought a lone battle upfront. The Oxford defence, however, was quick to catch Wanderers offside and limited their chances to a minimum in the first half.

Things improved after half time with Davies injecting some much needed life into midfield. Glen Swaby, a half time substitute, enlivened the proceedings in the second minute with a measured drive from 30 yards that beat goalkeeper Mike Powell but struck the crossbar.



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Then in the 58th minute an own goal broke the ice for the Blues. Price vollied in a cross that John Barr tried to clear but his header was misdirected and beat Powell, who got his hands to the ball but couldn't stop it entering the net.

Three minutes later Tony Horseman rose beautifully to nod home Swaby's near post cross for number two. Powell saved well from Ian Pearson and Horseman spooned over an easy chance from eight yards before Price was upended inside the area by Hall after a fine run. Pearson sent the goalkeeper the wrong way from the spot.

A lovely cross from Pearson was headed against the crossbar by Price in the 78th minute but Price was not to be denied and he made it 4-0 a minute later when he turned in a shot from a narrow angle to complete the scoring.

WYCOMBE: P. Spittle; P. Birdseye, D. Bullock, A. Phillips, K. Mead; H. Kennedy (sub G. Swaby 45 mins), G. Fraser (sub L. Cadogan 45 mins), M. Hollifield (sub A. Davies 45 mins); A. Horseman, D. Evans (sub I. Pearson 45 mins), A. Price.

OXFORD: M. Powell; D. Harrison, M. Merowick, P. White, J. Barr; D. Allanson, D. Brewiss, M. Tood; M. Hall, K. Cherring, M. Wickham.

Half time: 0-0. **Goalscorers** — Barr o.g. (58), Horseman (61), Pearson pen (72), Price (79).